Pollution in Ganga in Patna

† 3876. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that whole waste of Patna city is being thrown into the Ganges which is not only a river but a lifeline for Northern India and it is drifting away from Patna due to shrinkage;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the scheme to clean the Ganges initiated in the year 1981 with the cost of rupees five hundred and fifty crores has now been abandoned mid-way; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when this scheme would be restarted?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The total waste water presently generated in Patna is 141 million litres per day. Out of this, pollution abatement works corresponding to 105 million litres per day have been completed under Ganga Action Plan Phase-I. However, due to the problems of operation and maintenance, the sewage treatment plants constructed under Ganga Action Plan Phase-I are not running to the full capacity. As for the drifting of river away from Patna, this is a common phenomenon which takes place during the dry whether months every year.

(b) The Ganga Action Plan Phase-I, which was initiated in 1985, has been declared completed on 31.3.2000. The expenditure incurred on this plan is Rs. 452 crore which includes an amount of Rs. 33.49 crore for works taken up in Patna. The works corresponding to the additional waste water generated in Patna have been identified and are to be taken up under the Ganga Action Plan Phase-ll which is under implementation.

(c) Does not arise.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.